Amateur Television Journal

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2ed edition, issue #204
BATVC web site: www.kh6htv.com
ATN web site: www.atn-tv.com

Jim Andrews, KH6HTV, editor - kh6htv@arrl.net www.kh6htv.com

Kevin Hempson, KK6JPN (left) & Cody Stark, CBS (right)

Check out KK6JPN, Kevin's fantastic museum collection of TV cameras and other TV studio and broadcast equipment. The Sacramento, California, CBS station, KMAX, channel 31 on March 2ed toured Kevin's ham shack for a great 16 minute video feature story. Here is the URL link to it.

https://www.cbsnews.com/gooddaysacramento/video/cody-is-with-a-man-who-has-a-huge-studio-camera-collection/?fbclid=IwdGRjcAQT68pleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAwzNTA2ODU1MzE3MjgAAR6KhAH8yH1NxsgU6-W8Cilq3LQF7SLVEpI4eVwPEsWDjDIuIdzpd5DJBESUxA_aem_9qEnnq6TZ2aePqtrAVDlLQ

Kevin is active in ATV, primarily on the 23cm band using DVB-S. From his qth in Sutter Creek, he is able to hit the Mt. Diablo ATV repeater.

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Silent Key
Roland Hoffman
KC6JPG

It is with a sad, heavy heart that the Amateur Television Network announces the passing of one of it's key members. Roland Hoffman, KC6JPG, died on February 24th after a long, hard fought battle with cancer. Roland will be remembered for his infectious great smile and enthusiastic approach to life and ham radio/TV in particular. He was the backbone of the ATN – Southern California ATV group. He was their ATV net control station for over 20 years. He also was one of the organizers for the annual world-wide ATV QSO party.

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ATV NETS:

Mondays:

Portland, Oregon – WA7DRO, 7 pm local Pacific time. ATV net with talk back on 440.450 MHz FM repeater 103.5 tone streaming on https://batc.org.uk/live/w7amq

Tuesdays:

S. California ATN -- 7:30 pm local Pacific

Arizona ATN -- 7:30 pm local Pacific time www.whereby.com/atn-tv & on the air with rptrs We also stream on www.youtube.com/amateurtelevisionnetwork and on www.BATC.TV

Mt. Diablo, CA -- 18:00 Pacific Tech Net on the air, plus 2m FM on W6CX 147.06 MHz + 100 PL repeater: Online Streams http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org https://batc.org.uk/live/w6cxatv

Wednesdays:

Ohio ATV Net – DARA/ATCO/ATN -- 8 pm local eastern time. Zoom net at: https://www.zoom.us/j/9670918666 with password of 191593 Net control is Dave, AH2AR

Silcon Valley ATV Net – W6SVA 8:30 pm local Pacific time, Our talk-in frequency is 441.275 with a 123 PL or 145.51 Simplex. Streaming at https://batc.org.uk/live/w6atn

Chesapeake ATV Society, MD – W3BAB, 9 pm local Eastern time, on our ATV repeaters with audio on 146.67- (PL tone 102.7) also streamed at https://batc.org.uk/live/w3bab

St. Louis ATV Net – W0ATN 7 pm Local Central time, ATV plus 2m FM on 144.34 MHz simplex

Seattle, Washington – WW7ATS, 20:00 local Pacific time, ATV plus 2m FM 147.08+ MHz, CTCSS: 103.5

Towson, MD -- CATS W3BAB 9 pm local Eastern time, ATV net plus 2m FM 146.67 – 102.7 PL

Thursdays:

Boulder, CO – 3 pm local Mtn. Time, ATV net on local W0BTV DATV repeater (Ch 57, 423MHz), 2 meter Voice net control on BCARES repeater 146.760 (-600kHz, 100Hz PL). Typically lasts for 1 hour. Streamed over BATC https://batc.org.uk/live/ click on either AB0MY or N0YE. Net control is Don, N0YE.

Mt. Diablo, CA -- 20:00 Pacific ATV net on the air, plus 2m FM on W6CX 147.06 MHz + 100 PL repeater: Online Streams http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org https://batc.org.uk/live/w6cxatv

Baltimore, MD – BRATS W3WCQ ATV net 2m FM on 147.03 repeater 156.7 PL

Saturday:
Midwest ATV DX Group -- 07:00 EST Zoom net at https://www.zoom.us/j/9670918666 with password of 191593

Seattle, Washington – WW7ATS, 20:00 local Pacific time, ATV plus 2m FM 147.08+ MHz, CTCSS: 103.5

Sunday:
Midwest ATV DX Group -- 07:00 EST Zoom net at: https://www.zoom.us/j/9670918666 with password of 191593

Arizona ATN -- 7 pm local AZ time www.whereby.com/atn-tv & on the air with rptrs We also stream on www.youtube.com/amateurtelevisionnetwork and on www.BATC.TV

Mt. Diablo, CA -- 09:00 Pacific Bathrobe Net on the air, plus 2m FM on W6CX 147.06 MHz + 100 PL repeater: Online Streams http://w6cxatv.mdarc.org https://batc.org.uk/live/w6cxatv

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NEWS from ATV Repeater Groups:

St. Louis, MO Mel Whitten, K0PFX, writes -- Nothing of interest going on here regarding ATV. We continue to have a Wednesday night net. A few outside the club watch our live streaming over the internet but not gained any new members. The home-brew SLATS DATV controller is a mesh-mash of several "boxes" but has been very reliable not having to visit repeater site in last 6 months.

I plan on visiting with Darko, OE7DBH, at Dayton although I will be manning a Digital Voice booth (FreeDV "RADE") too. If you get a chance sometime, take a look at FreeDV's new voice mode. It is quite "amazing" – FM like voice quality with no band noise. More robust than 70 year old SSB. Uses half the spectrum BW of SSB. Yes, Ai machine learning was used to train it with over 200 hours of speech and band conditions. https://freedv.org Flex will have it integrated in their later model SDR radios sometime this year. Thanks for the work you do for ATV. It helps hold us all together.

NEW ENGLAND: Jay Rogers, N1WVQ, in Middlebourgh, MA writes that he wants to regenerate ATV interest in New England. He is making plans to put up three ATV repeaters. He is thinking about doing both dual band (70 & 23cm) and dual mode (VUSB & DVB-T). Jay is quite active in ham radio, is member of several clubs, and also hosts several repeaters. If there are other hams in New England who might also be interested in reactivating ATV activity there, get in contact with Jay at a1asurfradio@yahoo.com

ATN – S. California: The Amateur Televison Net is a network of seven ATV networks tying together the Los Angeles area, Las Vegas and much of southern California. 3 and 5 GHz FM-TV

transmitters provide the links. Earl Haltman, KJ6DQR, reports that the Snow Peak repeater is presently off the air. Their 600 watt final amplifier has failed and needs to be replaced. The Snow Peak repeater provides coverage for Palm Springs - Coachella Valley, 29 Palms & Yucca Valley. They are anxiously awaiting the return of Mike, WA6SVT, to aid in the repair.

San Diego: Mario, KD6ILO, writes --- Our KD6ILO, RF transponders are no longer active or used (but inactive) since Feb 2024 as we have transitioned to (Laser) optical both terrestrial and space base (LEO) communications. Having four(4) CubeSats active 2-v1, 2-v2 and 1-v3 currently being assembled for 2027 and will be launched by Rocket Lab in New Zealand. We are working alongside NASA's, under its commercial program partnership.

Palomar Amateur Radio Club, near San Diego, Mark Raptis, KF7WN, writes --- The founder of our ATV repeater was KC6UQH. He is now a SK – thus their ATV repeater is off the air

Pueblo, Colorado: The trustee for the Pueblo Amateur Radio Club, W0PHC, was Bill Nichol, K0DGQ. He owned the ATV repeater there. He has since dropped out of ham radio and the repeater is off the air.

Coca Beach, FL: Tom, K4ATV, reports the repeater there is out of service.

Bowling Green, KY: The trustee for the KY4TV repeater was Hank Cantrell, W4HTB, who is now a silent key.

Flint, Michigan: KC8KGZ trustee is Clay Hewitt, KF8UI. Clay reports the ATV repeater is out of service due to lack of interest

New Brighton, Minnesota: Bill Frovik, N0MNB, has been an active contributor to ATV Journal in the past. We have been unable to connect with Bill recently as his email address no longer works. Thus status unknown.

Omaha, Nebraska: Likewise, John Gerber, WB0CMC, has been an active contributor to ATV Journal in the past. We have been unable to connect with John recently as his email address no longer works. Thus status unknown.

Reno, Nevada: W0US Jim Shepard reports the antenna was destoyed this winter in strong winds. Thus the ATV repeater is temporarily located at his qth in Sparks.

Las Vegas, Nevada: Frank Kostelac, N7ZEV, reports that the Mt. Polosi ATV repeater is on the air.

Other ATV Repeaters: In preparing the 2026 USA ATV Repeater Directory, I tried to also contact other repeater groups with no success. They included: W4ATV, Huntsville, AL; W6SVA, San Jose, CA; W1RP, Cape Coral, FL; KV4ATV, Panama City, FL; WI7ATV, Payette, ID;

W0BXR, Davenport, IA; KA0TV, Wichita, KS; K3UKO, Laurel, MD; KC8LMI, Jackson, MI; K8DRM, Grand Rapids, MI; KD0HWX, Wabasha, MN; W2VER, Vernon, NJ; W8FY, Van Wert, OH; WB2QHS, Portland, OR; KP4IA, Puerto Rico; N4VDE, Greenville, SC;
If any of these ATV repeater groups, or others, are still active and on the air, our readers would like to know about them. We will add them to the latest ATV repeater directory. Please send updates to the editor, KH6HTV.

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Silicon Valley Amateur Television

Www.w6sva.com

THE TOP OF THE HILL AT LOMA PRIETA

Welcome to The **W6SVA** Repeater System. We are located on Loma Prieta with an elevation of 3,864 feet. Our ATV Repeater input is 1255 MHz FM and the output is 427.25 MHz AM, that you can receive on television cable channel 58 with a beam looking at Loma Prieta. Our talk-in frequency is 441.275 with a 123 PL or 145.51 Simplex. Our Net is every Wednesday at 8:30 PM, visitors are welcome. The Net can be seen on streaming video from the link on the left. Our luncheon meetings are held every third Saturday of the month, at 11:00 AM . Location: Jack Holders at 3153 Meridian Ave, San Jose CA 95124. We stream the output of our repeater at www.batc.org.uk/live/w6sva

WB6RIY Joe W2NYC Ben

LOOKING AT THE SOUTH BAY AREA

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Chesapeake Amateur TV Society

www.qsl.net/w3bab

An Amateur Television (ATV) repeater is hosted by us in the Greater Baltimore, MD area. A major tenet of Amateur Radio is public service. We meet each Wednesday evening on the air with both audio and video to maintain our communications "network" of area hams for communications. We can be called upon to share information and video in support of area emergency and disaster recovery operations.

The CATS repeater is located in downtown Towson, MD. Input is NTSC on 434 MHz. or DVB-T video on 439.25 MHz. Output is on 421.25 MHz. NTSC (analog) video). If you are close-in to the Towson area, an analog-capable television on cable channel 57 -AND- connected to a separate antenna will enable viewing. A second output of FM satellite television format is on 1.291 ghz. Scientific Atlanta 9660 receivers are an inexpensive and quick way to view the repeater output in high quality. We have a small supply of these devices for sale at $10 each. They are pre-programmed for our repeater. For farther away viewers, a pre- amplifier is needed. The repeater features receiving antennas on both the north and south sides of the building. The Towson ATV repeater is live from 9:00 am. to midnight daily. Fred K3TAZ and John K0ZAK continue to provide DVB-T signals to the CATS Towson ATV repeater. Many raves over the quality of their signals Who will be next with DVB-T signals? John K0ZAK has written up some implementation notes of his experiences with DVB-T transmitting and reception.

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Baltimore Radio Amateur TV Society

The society was established in 1970 and incorporated in Maryland in May of 1978. It has a current roster of about 40 members.
https://bratsatv.org/

The society also maintains an amateur television (ATV) repeater which relays pictures sent by radio amateurs throughout the city, using standards similar to those of commercial broadcast TV. This system was the second of its kind in the country when it was placed in service in 1976. Amateur television has been used as an aid to public safety during local Walk-a-Thons and the Towson July 4th Parade.

Located in Baltimore, Maryland, W3WCQ/R is one of the very first ATV repeaters in the United States. The only older US ATV repeater was the now gone, the MetroVision ATV repeater in Washington, DC. Maintained by the BRATS, W3WCQ/R has been in operation since the mid 1970's. Located entirely at a single site in Northeast Baltimore, the repeater operates DVB-T format on 426.25 MHz output with 439.25 MHz input. If you don't see activity on the ATV repeater, give a call on the FM repeater system (147.03+, etc.) to announce your interests. Weeknights around 9:00 pm. and during FM nets are particularly popular for video activity.

System enhancements planned include computer-controlled source selection and remote configuration via the Internet. Efforts are underway toward linking with other Mid-Atlantic ATV repeaters via the MidAtlantic DATV group. The first leg of the network is intended to be York, PA, through New Freedom, PA, to the CATS Towson ATV repeater--1.291 GHz. output. Subsequent plans are farther south to our BRATS ATV repeater with link plans of northwest to Wilmington, Delaware and also south to the CATS Laurel ATV repeater--421.25. MHz. Output.

Major Milestone In BRATS ATV Repeater Revival: In March 2024, John K0ZAK led a work party of Ed KC3YFZ, Fred K3TAZ, Ian N3CVA, John KA3ZTC, and Stephan KC3ILL to our ATV repeater site. Mission: To implement the fiber-optics solution to the problem of connecting the BRATS ATV receivers to the ATV transmitter. The ATV repeater is single-site on the physical plant floor of a building in northeast Baltimore. Passing of high-definition digital signals is a much more demanding task than the earlier analog ATV repeater using coaxial cable for passing analog signals. Plenty of learning along the way, beginning with what low loss method to use for the signals? The use of HDMI technology over the fiber-optics lines solves the problem.

Ian N3CVA, Fred K3TAZ, John K0ZAK, and Stephan KC3ILL working at one of the few lower placed cable runs. Photo KC3YFZ

Transmitter section of the BRATS ATV repeater system; packaged and ready for insertion into equipment cabinet at repeater site. Photo W3ZQI.

A big thank you to the team for their efforts as we near completion of the remote testing of the various ATV repeater equipment in the project. The "off the shelf" Raspberry Pi-based controller, designed and supported by the British Amateur Television Club (BATC), is used by numerous ATV repeaters world-wide. Content selection by the BATC controller drives HDMI switchers (via Infrared) to do seamless content switching. All-in-all, very versatile, allowing enhancements and additional repeater features eventually. On Go-Live, all operations will be in the 70cm. Band.

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Europe ATV Contest Schedule:

The 2026 calendar for further ATV contests is as follows:
March 14/15 -- everything from 70cm and above in all ATV modes
April 18/19 -- D-ATV narrowband 6m, 2m and 70cm
June 13/14 -- IARU R1 ATV contest 6m and above in all modes
August 15/16 -- D-ATV narrowband 6m, 2m and 70cm
September 12/13 -- everything from 70cm and above in all ATV modes
December 12/13 -- everything from 70cm and above in all ATV modes
for more info – contact Frans Van de Velde, ON4VVV, at Frans@allcommunications.be

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Ultra-Narrow-Band DVB-T:

Frans, ON4VVV, in Belgium reports -- “In response to my request to receive narrowband DVB-T signals such as 33, 66, 125, or 250 kHz via SDR using GNU-RADIO and a standard RTL SDR, I received help from Jan Willem ON6LM, who has experience with such software. He installed the various packages on a Linux PC, and everything worked perfectly right away. As soon as we have more time, we'll continue with this. You can also read here how you can use it yourself. DVB-T undoubtedly has several advantages and disadvantages from which we can learn something. Every "Portsdown" D-ATV transmitter has the ability to transmit low SR in DVB-T, which has remained largely unused until now. Hence my drive to do something with this for the ATV community.”

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I have just updated my popular ATV Handbook application note, AN-55. It can be found on my web site at: https://kh6htv.com/application-notes/
The revisions are relatively minor.

Application Note
AN-55b
copyright
March, 2020
revised March, 2026

ATV Handbook
- an Introduction to Amateur TV

Jim Andrews, KH6HTV

The material in AN-55 was the basis for my complete rewrite of the chapter on ATV in the ARRL’s 100th edition of their famous **ARRL Handbook**. The printed version in their handbook was rather short. Most of the “meat” was buried in their electronic supplement.

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W0BTV Details:

Inputs: 23 cm Primary (CCARC co-ordinated) + 70 cm & 3 cm secondary all digital using European Broadcast TV standard, DVB-T with standard 6 MHz wide TV channels. Frequencies listed are the center frequency of the TV channel.
23 cm = 1243 MHz (primary), 70 cm = 441 MHz & 3 cm = 10.380 GHz
Outputs: 70 cm Primary (CCARC co-ordinated), Channel 57 -- 423 MHz with 6 MHz BW, DVB-T
Also, secondary analog, NTSC, FM-TV output on 5.905 GHz (24/7 microwave beacon).
Operational details in AN-51d Technical details in AN-53d. Available at: *https://kh6htv.com/application-notes/*

W0BTV ATV Net:

We hold a social ATV net on Thursday afternoon at 3 pm local Mountain time (22:00 UTC). The net typically runs for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. ATV nets are streamed live using the British Amateur TV Club's server, via: ***https://batc.org.uk/live/*** Select ***ab0my or n0ye***. We use the Boulder ARES (BCARES) 2 meter FM voice repeater for intercom. 146.760 MHz *(-600 kHz, 100 Hz PL tone required to access*).

Newsletter Details:

This newsletter was started in 2018 and originally published under the title "*Boulder Amateur Television Club - TV Repeater's REPEATER*" Starting with issue #166, July, 2024, we have changed the title to "*Amateur Television Journal.*" This reflects the fact that it has grown from being simply a local club's newsletter to become the "de-facto" ATV newsletter for the USA and overseas hams. This is a free ATV newsletter distributed electronically via e-mail to ATV hams. The distribution list has now grown to over 800+, both in the USA and overseas. News and articles from other ATV groups are welcomed. Permission is granted to re-distribute it and also to re-print articles, as long as you acknowledge the source. All past issues are archived at: https://kh6htv.com/newsletter/

ATV HAM ADS -- *Free advertising space is offered here to ATV hams, ham clubs or ARES groups. List here amateur radio & TV gear*

For Sale - or - Want to Buy